Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 181625Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3990
INFO USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T CAIRO 6460

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, US, EG
SUBJ: FAHMY'S COMPLAINT ABOUT AMB YOUNG

1. WHEN DISCUSSING WITH FAHMY TODAY EGYPTIAN MOVE TO RESUMRE UNSC DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT (SEPTEL), HE IMMEDIATELY COUNTERED WITH A COMPLAINT ABOUT RECENT STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY AMB YOUNG WHICH, HE CLAIMED, HAS CAOUSED GOE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT. ACCORDING TO FAHMY, AMB YOUNG HAD PUBLICLY CHARGED THAT ARAB HATRED TOWARDS JEWS WAS SIMILIAR TO KLU KLUX KLAN HATRED TOWARD BLACKS.

2. FAHMY WAS FURIOUS ABOUT ALLGED STATEMENT, WHICH HE CALLED "ILL-INFORMED AND UNHELPFUL". IF AMB YOUNG WOULD READ HISTORY, HE WOULD FIND THAT JEWS AND ARABS HAVE ALWAYS LIVED TOGETHER IN PEACE IN THE ARAB WORLD UNTIL ZIONIST ACTIVITIES BEGIN IN THE PRESENT CENTURY. ARAB RECORD IN THIS REGARD MUCH BETTER THAN THAT OF EUROPEAN STATES. AMB YOUNG SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT EGYPTIAN JEWS STILL LIVE PEACEFULLY AND HAPPILY IN EGYPT AND THERE IS NO HATRED AGAINST THEM. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SADAT HAD RECEIVED THE FORMER EGYPTIAN JEW, MIZRAHI, DURING THE PRES'S RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT.

3. I SAID I HAD NOT READ AMB YOUNG'S STATEMENT BUT WAS SURE
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THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING. I DID NOT PERSONALLY KNOW AMB YOUNG, BUT WAS CONFIDENT LAST THING HE WOULD WISH TO DO WAS LEVEL FALSE CHARGES AGAINST ARABS OR ANYONE. FAHMY INSISTED THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING. AMB YOUNG HAD SUB-SEQUENTLY TOLD EGYPITIAN PERMREP ABDEL MEGUID THAT HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED, BUT GOE HAS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE THAT THE THRUST OF THE REMARKS HAD BEEN EXACTLY AS REPORTED. FAHMY CLAIMED

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TO HAVE RECEIVED TELEGRAMS FROM FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES (UNSPEC-
IFIED) PROTESTING AMB YOUNG'S COMMENTS AND ASKING HOW THEY COULD
HAVE BEEN MADE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SADAT'S VISIT TO THE UNITED
STATES. FAHMY INSISTED THAT THE STATEMENT HAD NOT ONLY BEEN
DEEPLY OFFENSIVE TO EGYPT AND THE ARABS, BUT EXTREMELY
"EMBARRASSING" TO GOE FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. EVEN
SADAT HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY IT. AS WE KNEW, GOE IS SEEKING TO
WORK CLOSELY WITH USG ON ME PEACE FRONT AND SUCH UNHELPFUL
STATEMENTS ARE GRIST FOR THE MILL OF ARAB CRITICS.

4. I SAID THAT IF AMB YOUNG TOLD ABDEL MEGUID THAT HE HAD
BEEN MISQUOTED, I WAS SURE THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE CASE.
I WAS SURE, TOO, THAT THE AMB HAD NO INTENTION OF GIVING
OFFENSE TO EGYPT AND THE ARABS OR OF CAUSING POLITICAL "EM-
BARRASSMENT" TO SADAT AND OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS. I HOPED THAT
THE MATTER COULD BE CONSIDERED AS CLOSED. FAHMY EXPRESSED HIS
WILLINGNESS TO DO SO, BUT WARNED THAT IF SUCH STATEMENTS
OFFENSIVE TO ARABS CONTINUE, THEY WILL MAKE MATTERS DIFFICULT
FOR SADAT IN WORKING ON OTHER ARABS TO ADOPT CONSTRUCTIVE
POSITIONS. MOREOVER, ARABS, INCLUDING GOE, WILL HAVE TO
RESPOND IN KIND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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